Awareness and extension centres for poultry

1994. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce regulatory measures to govern the health of poultry livestock to prevent from spread of diseases;

(b) whether there is also a proposal to launch an awareness programme in the poultry sector;

(c) whether more poultry research institutes and extension centres would be established to improve the quality of poultry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to finance and assist small and marginal farmers to develop and sustain poultry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) In the background of the occurrence of bird flu in certain parts of the country, the Government looked at a possible regulatory framework to keep poultry healthy and to prevent spread of diseases. However, there is no specific proposal in this regard at the present juncture.

(b) The awareness campaign in regard to the poultry sector is an ongoing activity.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) The 'Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund' provides financial assistance to individuals interested in taking up poultry farming. The Central Poultry Development Organisations also provide training to farmers in various aspects of poultry farming.

Subsidy for sugar cultivation

1995. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar cultivation in Karnataka is facing setbacks this season owing to unprecedented slump in the price of sugar from Rs. 1600 per quintal to Rs. 1200 per quintal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether under similar circumstances in the past, Government extended support in the form of buffer stock subsidy, export subsidy, etc., to the affected States;

(d) if so, the details of such support extended by the Centre to different States during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(e) whether the Government are considering to extend the same support to Karnataka; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Due to excess production of sugar in the current 2006-07 sugar season, the open market prices of non-levy sugar have declined considerably. In Karnataka, the prices are lower by Rs. 440-470 per quintal in August, 2007 over October, 2006, the beginning of sugar season. However, it is too early to say whether or not the decline in prices will have impact on sugarcane cultivation.

(c) and (d) In 2001-02/2002-03 sugar seasons, there was excess production of sugar and the Government took the following steps to help the sugar industry and sugarcane growers:

(i) A buffer stock of 20 lac tons of sugar was created for a period of one year from 18.12.2002 to 17.12.2003 which was extended by one year *i.e.* upto 17.12.2004; and

(ii) Reimbursement of internal transport and freight charges on export shipments of domestically manufactured sugar from factory to port *w.e.f.* 14.06.2002 to 20.06.2004; and

(iii) Neutralization of ocean freight disadvantage on export shipment of sugar at the rate of Rs. 350/- per tonne from 14.02.2003 to 20.06.2004; and

(iv) Marketing and handling charges on export shipment of sugar at the rate of Rs. 500/- per tonne from 03.10.2003 to 20.06.2004.

The Central Government does not extend support State-wise. The buffer subsidy is disbursed factory-wise depending upon the buffer stock allocated to the concerned sugar factory, whereas in case of export, the assistance is given on the basis of actual exports undertaken by the concerned sugar factories.

(e) and (f) Due to high levels of sugarcane and sugar production during the current 2006-07 sugar season, the Central Government has taken the following steps to help the sugar industry to clear the cane price arrears of sugarcane growers:-

(i) A buffer stock of 20 lac tons has already been created for a period of one year from 01.05.2007 to 30.04.2008. An additional buffer stock of 30 lac tons has also been created for a period of one year from 1.8.2007 to 31.7.2008. Creation of 50 lac tons of buffer stock would involve a subsidy amount of Rs. 945 crore (approximately) to be borne from Sugar Development Fund. The banks would also provide additional credit of Rs. 1050 crore (approximately) on creation of buffer stock. The buffer subsidy amount and the additional credit are to be exclusively used for liquidation of cane price arrears of sugarcane farmers;

(ii) Export assistance to defray a part of expenditure on internal transport, marketing and handling charges and ocean freight @ Rs. 1350/- per tonne for sugar factories located in coastal areas and Rs. 1450/- per tonne for sugar factories located in non-coastal areas (subject to actuals for export by road/rail to neighbouring countries) have been announced for a period of one year with effect from 19th April, 2007. The amount involved is Rs. 205 crore (approximately) which is to be borne from Sugar Development Fund. The export assistance is also to be used exclusively for cane price arrears payment.

(iii) Ban on export of sugar has been removed in January, 2007 and requirement of obtaining an export release order for export of sugar except for exports to EU countries and USA has been withdrawn *w.e.f.* 31.07.2007, for the current and next sugar season.

The above assistance would help all sugar mills in the country including sugar mills of Karnataka.

Privatization of Delhi Milk Scheme

†1996. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to hand over Delhi Milk Scheme to some private companies;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no plan to hand over Delhi Milk Scheme to private companies. However, Union Cabinet has approved in principally, corporatisation of DMS.

Adulterated fertilizers

1997. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of adulterated fertilizer is being distributed and sold in Madhya Pradesh which causes hardships to the farmers; and

(b) if so, what is the monitoring mechanism proposed by Government to the States when allotment of fertilizers is made by the Central Government through their agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No such case has come to the notice of the Government. However, Madhya Pradesh Government has reported that 429 samples have been found non-standard during 2007-08.